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Amendments to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(1)~~ for contactless communication with a base station ~~(4)~~ by means of an electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~ generated by the base station ~~(4)~~, having an antenna coil ~~(3)~~ connected to a first coil terminal ~~(5)~~ and to a second coil terminal ~~(6)~~, in which antenna coil ~~(3)~~ an antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~ can be induced in operation by the electromagnetic field, and having modulation means ~~(15)~~ for modulating the electromagnetic field, during successive load periods ~~(TB)~~ and off-load periods ~~(TE)~~, with transmission data ~~(UDD, KUDD)~~ to be communicated to the base station, the electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~ being load-modulated during the load periods ~~(TB)~~ by modifying the value of the impedance of a modulation load that is connected at least indirectly to the first coil terminal and the second coil terminal, and having detection means ~~(16)~~ for detecting an item of energy information ~~(EI, IRI)~~ that characterizes the energy content of the antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~, and having comparator means ~~(18)~~ for comparing the item of energy information ~~(EI, IRI)~~ detected with a preset item of energy information and for emitting an item of comparison information ~~(VI)~~ and having modification means ~~(19)~~ for modifying the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ as a function of the item of comparison information ~~(VI)~~.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modification means ~~(19)~~ are designed to increase the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ if the item of comparison information ~~(VI)~~ characterizes an item of energy information ~~(EI, IRI)~~ that has been detected that exceeds the preset item of energy information.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modification means ~~(19)~~ are designed for the stepless modification of the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the modulation means ~~(15)~~ are designed to modulate the electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~ with a subcarrier signal ~~(HTS)~~, the sum of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ and the duration of the off-load period ~~(TE)~~ corresponding to the length of one cycle of the subcarrier signal ~~(HTS)~~.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein, to detect the energy content of the antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~, the detection means ~~(16)~~ are designed to determine the coil voltage ~~(US)~~ arising between the first and second coil terminals.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(1)~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein, to detect the energy content of the antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~, the detecting means ~~(16)~~ are designed to determine a bleed current ~~(IR)~~ through a regulator stage ~~(8)~~.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ of a data carrier ~~(1)~~ for contactless communication with a base station ~~(4)~~ by means of an electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~ generated by the base station ~~(4)~~, having a first coil terminal ~~(5)~~ and a second coil terminal ~~(6)~~, to which an antenna coil ~~(3)~~ can be connected, in which antenna coil ~~(3)~~ an antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~ can be induced in operation by the electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~, and having modulation means ~~(15)~~ for modulating the electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~, during successive load periods ~~(TB)~~ and off-load periods ~~(TE)~~, with transmission data ~~(UDD, KUDD)~~ to be communicated to the base station ~~(4)~~, the electromagnetic field being load-modulated during the load periods ~~(TB)~~ by modifying the value of the impedance of a modulation load that is connected at least indirectly to the first coil terminal and the second coil terminal, and having detection means ~~(16)~~ for detecting an item of energy information ~~(EI, IRI)~~ that characterizes the energy content of the antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~, and having comparator means ~~(18)~~ for comparing the item of energy information detected with a preset item of energy information and for emitting an item of comparison information ~~(VI)~~, and having modification means ~~(19)~~ for modifying the ratio of the duration of the load period

~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ as a function of the item of comparison information ~~(VI)~~.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 7, wherein the modification means ~~(19)~~ are designed to increase the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ if the item of comparison information ~~(VI)~~ indicates an item of energy information ~~(EI, IRI)~~ that has been detected that exceeds the preset item of energy information.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 7, wherein the modification means ~~(19)~~ are designed for the stepless modification of the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 7, wherein the modulation means ~~(15)~~ are designed to modulate the electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~ with a subcarrier signal ~~(HTS)~~, the sum of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ and the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ corresponding to the length of one cycle of the subcarrier signal ~~(HTS)~~.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 7, wherein, to detect the energy content of the antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~, the detection means ~~(16)~~ are designed to determine the coil voltage ~~(US)~~ arising between the first and second coil terminals.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 7, wherein, to detect the energy content of the antenna signal ~~(ASD)~~, the detecting means ~~(16)~~ are designed to determine the bleed current ~~(IR)~~ through a regulator stage ~~(8)~~.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of modulation for the modulation, by a data carrier ~~(1)~~, of an electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~ generated by a base station ~~(4)~~, wherein the following steps are carried out:

modulation of the electromagnetic field by the data carrier ~~(1)~~, during successive load periods ~~(TB)~~ and off-load periods ~~(TE)~~, with transmission data ~~(UDD, KUDD)~~ to be communicated to the base station ~~(4)~~, the electromagnetic field being load-modulated during the load periods ~~(TB)~~ by modifying the value of the impedance of a modulation load belonging to the data carrier ~~(1)~~;

determination of the distance between the data carrier ~~(1)~~ and the base station ~~(4)~~;

adjustment of the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ as a function of the distance determined between the data carrier ~~(1)~~ and the base station ~~(4)~~.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of modulation as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ is increased if the distance between the data carrier ~~(1)~~ and the base station ~~(4)~~ decreases.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of modulation as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ratio of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ to the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ is modified steplessly.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)E A method of modulation as claimed in claim 13, wherein the electromagnetic field ~~(HF)~~ is modulated by the data carrier ~~(1)~~ with a subcarrier signal ~~(HTS)~~ and wherein the sum of the duration of the load period ~~(TB)~~ and the duration of the succeeding off-load period ~~(TE)~~ corresponds to the length of one cycle of the subcarrier signal ~~(HTS)~~.